



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 30, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Administrators and Authorizers
Education Alliance
School Board Presidents

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Project Reimagine Demonstration Districts

Many of you have heard me speak about the crucial need to reimagine our educational system and about our call for demonstration districts that will pilot ways to enact system-wide reform. Our state's future depends on all of our children graduating prepared for college and the workplace.

This is our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to use federal economic recovery funds to support this dramatic level of change. State funding will not increase and may never return to former levels. We must stop thinking in terms of silver bullets and small-scale programs and use our time, talents, and available resources to implement systemic change.

This memorandum includes Project Reimagine Proposal Guidelines for any school district/organization that is ready to accept the challenge to significantly transform teaching and learning. We are seeking up to 20 demonstration districts to work with us to reimagine education and are securing \$1 million that will be available to support your efforts. In addition, those districts selected will be included in MDE's application for additional federal Stimulus funds.

Please work with your reform team to write up your proposal and send it to the Michigan Department of Education by close of business on Friday, August 14, 2009. If you have questions about this vital project, please contact Tom White at tomwhite2251@gmail.com or Jean Shane at shanej@michigan.gov.

Be bold. Tinkering won't do.

Attachment

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324